

Application Serial No. 10/551,000
Reply to Office Action of December 28, 2006

MAY 25 2007
PATENT
Docket: CU-4426

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Takao SUZUKI et al.

Serial No.: 10/551,000

Group Art Unit: 3673

Filed: January 6, 2006

Examiner: Alison K Pickard

For: COMBINATION OIL RING


Mail Stop Amendment
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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office to the fax number and on the date indicated above.


Brian W. Hameder, Reg. No. 45,613

RESPONSE

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 28, 2007 and having a shortened statutory period for reply set to expire on March 28, 2007. Applicant submits the following response in the above-identified application. Also submitted with this response is a Request for Two-month Extension with the required fees, to extend the period of reply to May 28, 2007. Applicant believes this response places the application in better condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that Claims 8-17 are pending, and Claims 8-17 are rejected.

Each of the claims is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either JP 3-41078 or Masuyama (US 6,860,485). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses these rejections.

Both cited references disclose a coil expander formed of shape memory alloy, wherein the coil expander is treated such that it is brought into a contraction state at